

Earlier this year, Sinclair Broadcasting refused to air a Nightline reading the names of soldiers killed in Iraq because they claimed they "do not believe political statements should be disguised as news content" (according to Mark Hyman, Sinclair's corporate affairs officer).

Apparently, this view only applies to political statements that might be harmful to the current administration. Sinclair is now forcing its stations to air an anti-John Kerry documentary very shortly before the election. Their claim that this piece is "news", and therefore non-partisan, is preposterous, especially given that they didn't consider the Nightline in question to be news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.